



THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540-1000

July 20, 1994

Dear Mr. Kahle:

The Library of Congress is launching a major effort to help create a national digital library of unparalleled scope, richness, and accessibility. On September 1-3, the Library will hold a colloquium, one in a series of meetings, at which leaders in information technology research will aid the Library in identifying the major technical issues that must be addressed before the electronic library can become a reality.

You have been identified as a leading contributor to developing the electronic superhighway. We hope to secure your insight into how best to define a strategy for the digital library that will effectively serve scientists, scholars, students, and the American people. I am therefore extending an invitation to you to participate in this strategy meeting, which I consider an integral part of the Library's ongoing efforts to help build the National Information Infrastructure.

During the three-day event, you will examine selected collections and operations and participate in large and small group sessions. In preparation for the colloquium, I am enclosing background documents that provide a brief introduction to the Library and describe its structure and content. The goal of this meeting is to identify key strategic issues which must be resolved before the digital library can be implemented. The output of these three days will be the identification of problem areas which must be addressed, an outline of a strategy to address the identified areas, and the nomination of potential participants in the tactical meeting to be held by the Library as a follow-up to this strategic meeting.

We hope you will become part of this effort by the Library to transform many of its 100 million items into a form that can be delivered to U.S. schools, colleges, universities, and homes. I look forward to welcoming you to Washington in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James H. Billington".

James H. Billington
The Librarian of Congress

Enclosures

Mr. Brewster Kahle
President
WAIS, Inc.
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TECHNOLOGICAL STRATEGY FOR A NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

Logistics and Proposed Schedule

September 1-3, 1994

Principal Elements of the Colloquium

- * A three-day schedule that allows for interaction with LC staff, small-group working sessions, and roundtable discussions.
- * Small-group tours to view representative samples of the vast collections of the Library and its technology base.
- * The identification of problem areas which must be addressed to implement a national digital library.
- * A strategy to address the identified areas.
- * The nomination of potential participants in the follow-up tactical meeting.

Synopsis of Schedule

September 1 (Thursday):

Begin 9:00 a.m.
Tours of the Library's collections and technology resources
Presentations by LC staff
Introductory presentations by Invitees
(Includes lunch and dinner with the Librarian)

September 2 (Friday):

Working sessions
Roundtable discussions
Preparation of reports/recommendations
(Lunch and dinner included)

September 3 (Saturday):

Presentation and discussions of issues and strategies
Departure 1:00 p.m.
(Breakfast and lunch included)

(over)

Logistics and Travel

The Library will pay the cost of round-trip economy transportation, the government per diem (\$151) for lodging and meals, and up to \$150 for incidental expenses associated with the seminar. For this purpose, you will be considered an unpaid Consultant to the Library; contract forms will be sent upon receipt of your acceptance.

Points of Contact

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Washington, DC 20540-8005

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Email: eprog@kell.loc.gov

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